

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: FIKIN 77

FRONT PAGE COMMENTARY BY UNIVERSITY ECONOMICS PROFESSOR KAWATA BWALUM IN KINSHASA DAILY "ELIMA" JUNE 8 OUTLINES PROGRAMS FOR FIFTH INTERNATIONAL FAIR OF KINSHASA (FIKIN). PROFESSOR KAWATA NOTES THAT "TECHNOLOGY IN THE SERVICE OF DEVELOPMENT" IS SUBJECT OF AMERICAN SPEAKERS. HE SAYS, "THE DEBATE (OVER) THE POSSIBILITY OF TRANSFERRING TECHNOLOGY IS ALREADY OLD. TECHNOLOGY TODAY IS NOT (IN THE HANDS) OF THE NATION-STATES," PROFESSOR KAWATA CONTINUES, "BUT IS THE PROVINCE OF THE MULTINATIONAL FIRMS. RESEARCH IS DONE AT THE MAIN OFFICE, WHICH ONLY DELIVERS A PART OF THE RESULTS FOR APPLICATION BY ITS BRANCHES IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. ON THE OTHER HAND," HE CONTINUES, "EVEN IF A CERTAIN 'KNOW-HOW' IS TRANSFERRABLE, IT NECESSITATES (ADDITIONAL) RESEARCH BEFORE LOCAL APPLICATIONS (CAN BE MADE.) THE MODEST FINANCING WHICH THE MAJORITY OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES DEVOTES TO FUNDAMENTAL AND APPLIED SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH MAKES IT OBVIOUS THAT THE AFRICAN TECHNOLOGICAL BALANCE WILL NOT BE SOON REDRESSED. THE TECHNOLOGICAL 'GAP' WILL THEREFORE CONTINUE TO GROW...." PROFESSOR KAWATA CONCLUDES, "THE DISCUSSION (ON THIS SUBJECT) WILL BE VERY HEATED." ITEM
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